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MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Ottawa takes in the weekend's soaring temperatures

A paraglider takes in the 22 C weather flying down a hill at Mooney's Bay Park on Sunday. Temperatures are expected to remain in the double digits for the rest of the work week. ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND MEDIA



JOHANNA SCHNELLER
Moral outrage
and hope in
Confirmation
metrolife

Sparks Street T-shirt kerfuffle 'ridiculous': Artist

BACKLASH

King, pedestrian mall to collaborate after mishap



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Local artist Andrew King says "good things are ahead" on Sparks Street after he was kicked out of the pedestrian mall for handing out free T-shirts.

The move caused a bit of a backlash on Friday: Some accused the pedestrian mall of being "the street that fun forgot," while others protested the decision Saturday with handmade signs and the hashtag #funkillers.

While King called the situation "ridiculous," he's hoping the outcry can be channelled into real change on the historic street.

"What this shows is people love

Sparks Street and they want to see something fun and exciting there," King said.

Instead of being mad, he's working with Sparks Street BIA events co-ordinator Kevin McHale on a new project.

Neither of them would confirm what exactly that might be, or when we'll see it.

The drama began around noon on Friday, when King showed up outside the Sparks Street Winners to hand out 50 handmade Ottawa 2017 T-shirts.

But fun wasn't really in the cards, as McHale confronted King almost immediately because he hadn't cleared his plans with the BIA in advance.

"I have to apply the same rules (to everyone)," said McHale. "Most of the time we say yes."

Still, McHale said the BIA can do a better job communicating those rules, and he's asked city bylaw whether or not the BIA was wrong to make King leave.

Two Canadians among hundreds killed by Ecuador quake

**metro
NEWS**

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LOCAL MATTERS

IN OTTAWA

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*SOURCE: VIVIDATA Q4 2015 OTTAWA CMA, ADULTS 18+, AVERAGE ISSUE READERSHIP.

Your essential daily news

Canadians could soon get loans to help untie the knot. **Business**

Metro up for media award

 **Steve Rennie**
Metro | Ottawa

Metro Ottawa has been short-listed for a prestigious journalism award for its work uncovering a report that exposed flaws in the way the City of Ottawa responded to Michael Zehaf Bibeau's deadly attack on Parliament Hill in 2014.

Metro is a finalist for the Canadian Journalism Foundation's Jackman Award for Excellence in Journalism in the small media category, which honours an organization whose exemplary work affects the community.

It took several months, multiple freedom-of-information requests and a complaint to the information commissioner for Metro to get copies of a trio of reports that looked at how the city responded to the Oct. 22, 2014 attack in the nation's capital.

One of the reports found that there were not enough security guards on duty that day to quickly lock down Ottawa City Hall. It also cited problems with the "slow and inconsistent" way city staff communicated with people both inside and outside the building, and found there were not enough security cameras in city hall — and some of the cameras that were in the building did not work properly.

The city has since started to act on 20 recommendations it had previously refused to divulge.

Friday's nod comes in addition to reporter Haley Ritchie's Ontario Newspaper Award nomination for a photo of a boy waving a French flag in the aftermath of the Paris attacks.

Hollaback with street chalk

AWARENESS

Group helps to spread anti-harassment messages

 **Haley Ritchie**
Metro | Ottawa

A group of around 20 people gathered at the Human Rights Memorial on Elgin Street Sunday afternoon, taking advantage of the dry and sunny weather to fight street harassment in the city.

The weapons of choice were chalk and words.

"I smile if I want," wrote Alexia Barroche across from the Ottawa courthouse in bright orange chalk. Other colourful slogans included "Cats not catcalling" and "Stop street harassment."

The "chalk walk" was part of a series of events organized for International Anti-Street Harassment week.

"In Ottawa people either think it doesn't happen, because it's a conservative city, or it's just men paying women compliments," said Julie Lalonde, director of Hollaback! Ottawa, an anti-street harassment group organizing the walk.

"It just makes people feel uncomfortable. Any woman or trans person in Ottawa will tell you they've been harassed. At best it's annoying, at worst it's really scary," she said.



Lisane Thirsk, a volunteer with Hollaback! Ottawa, spent the day chalking up Elgin Street with anti-harassment messages.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

"The great thing about a chalk walk is you're having a conversation about street harassment where it's happening," said Lalonde. "It needs to be in public spaces."

Earlier in the week on Friday Hollaback's volunteer team used a photocopier instead of chalk.

They put up posters in Centretown designed by Brooklyn artist Tatyana

Fazlalizadeh as part of a public art series called Stop Telling Women to Smile.

The black and white posters feature images of women and slogans like "Women are not outside for your entertainment" and "My outfit is not an invitation."

But by Sunday morning some of the posters near Somerset Street and Bank Street had been defaced with accusa-

SCHEDULE

Chalk walks are held regularly throughout the summer in Ottawa.

tions about "feminazis" and "men are not your wallets."

Lalonde said was disappointed by the speed of the defacement, but not sur-

prised that it happened.

"It's disappointing but it proves we need to have this conversation," said Lalonde. "If a poster offends you that much that you need to write on it then we've obviously struck a nerve."

Hollaback's website and app allows people to share instances of harassment and tracks the reports on a map of the city.



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5

THINGS TO WATCH AT CITY HALL THIS WEEK

A hookah ban, a trip to India and a childcare funding shortfall. Here's what's on at City Hall this week.



**Lucy
Scholey**
Metro | Ottawa



1 Childcare funding shortfall

More Ottawa parents may be left waiting for childcare subsidies because the city is getting less provincial funding this year, according to a city report. Despite a province-wide increase in childcare funding by \$16 million, Ottawa is the only major city to see a reduction. Staff are left to figure out how to make up for a \$2.2 million childcare revenue shortfall in operating funding. There are 984 children on the waitlist for a fee subsidy, but staff say that number could increase to 1,244. The city's community and protective services committee will grapple with this issue on Thursday.



2 Tree-felling

Cries of "timber!" resonated more often in College Ward last year. Or maybe not. But the city has a new report that marks the ward-by-ward number of permits issued to knock down "distinctive" trees — those that measure at least 50 centimetre in diameter on properties less than one hectare. Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper asked staff to compile the numbers (his ward was issued the second-highest number of tree-felling permits last year — 59 to College's 64), but he says it will take a few years of reporting before we see whether it's a long-term trend.



4 Mayor in India

Jim Watson is leading the city's first trade mission to India this week. Thirty-five representatives from tech companies, post-secondary schools, businesses, tourism and Invest Ottawa will try to secure investments in research and training for academic institutions. The interests range from cellular and satellite to the film industry and real estate. The mayor will also make his Ottawa 2017 pitch in the hopes of attracting Indian tourists to the city for Canada's 150th anniversary.

3 Shisha snuffed out?

The City of Ottawa wants to ban hookah pipes in restaurants, clamp down on e-cigarettes and implement stricter rules on shisha advertising. The proposed changes have been controversial, with e-cigarette advocates arguing that vaping is a healthier alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes. The discussion may heat up at the board of health on Monday evening.



5 Transitway closure

University of Ottawa students, take note: This is the last week buses will run along the Transitway between Laurier Avenue and Lees Station. On April 24, that section will be closed for the Confederation Line construction. Campus Station and the lower level of Lees Station will also close. Buses will be re-routed to Nicholas Street and Highway 417. Routes 95, 98 and 85 will service King Edward Avenue and Route 97 will operate that road after 10 p.m. For more information, check out octranspo.com.



Andy Lofthouse, owner of Purebread bakery, with a selection of his sourdough breads.

SARA ERICSSON/FOR METRO

Interest in trendy sourdough rises

BAKING

Documentary entices home cooks back to an old method

 **Sara Ericsson**
For Metro | Ottawa

Sourdough bread is on the rise, and an Ottawa bakery is rising with it.

Andy Lofthouse, owner and operator of Purebread bakery near Centretown, specializes in baking sourdough bread. He's seen a rise in sales and interest surrounding sourdough bread, which appears in the popular Netflix documentary series *Cooked*.

The series, based on acclaimed food writer Michael Pollan's best-selling book, explores the classical elements of fire, water, air and earth — along with their relation

to cooking — and how they've developed and shaped humanity's history.

The "air" episode discusses bread in different forms and cultures, and features Pollan baking homemade sourdough. Lofthouse says he "can think of no single other thing that's made this kind of impact" on interest in the bread.

Since the series began, Lofthouse has also seen an increase of customers wanting to bake the bread themselves. He attributes this revival of interest to people wanting to return to traditional food-making methods.

"It's the simplicity, the hands-on nature of it, and that people feel they're doing something that's linking them to the natural world," he says.

Sourdough bread begins with a starter, which is a yeast culture that forms from flour and water. It is then combined with water, flour and salt into a dough, and baked. It has many health benefits since it's not processed, and is naturally


It's the simplicity, the hands-on nature of it.
Andy Lofthouse, baker

lower in gluten.

When he moved from London to Ottawa three years ago, Lofthouse smuggled his starter-culture over from England — it had proved so successful that he didn't want to start another.

He says his attachment to the starter is normal, and that many people even name their starters. This is all a part of the personal nature of traditional bread-making methods.

He's even tried some of his customers' creations, with mixed results.

"The results don't matter — the people are a part of the process, and that's what matters," he says.

"Each loaf is a slight variation, and I never get bored of that."

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Drive Pie pizzeria serves up a slice of convenience

RESTAURANTS

Drive-thru windows not just for coffee, burgers: Owner

Marc Shaw
Ottawa Business Journal

An old family recipe is being served up in a new way in Ottawa, or at least new to the pizza business.

The drive-thru.

And while it is still in the middle of a soft opening, Drive Pie pizzeria, located in a former Second Cup location on Montreal Road, is already attracting regular customers.

"Having been in the pizza business before, it never made sense to me how you couldn't get a decent slice of pizza at a drive-thru," said Drive Pie co-founder Al Gurhan. "Everyone has a drive-thru. It's even in the banking industry. It's all about the convenience factor and making it easy for people to access your product."

Gurhan recently returned to the pizza business after a 30-year hiatus spent working in the tech sector. He used to make deliveries for his parents' pizzeria in Nepean back then, and the dough used at the new Drive Pie is his mom's secret recipe.

According to Mr. Gurhan, people are still talking about

his mother's pizza decades after his parents' restaurant closed, and that was a motivating factor for his new venture.

"After hearing it for 30 years, I thought, 'Let's just do this.' I haven't been in the food business for that time, but this is something that our family has been passionate about. We think that my mom's recipe does a good job differentiating our food in a pretty saturated market," he said.

Their distinct offerings all use dough, sauce and cheese that are mixed and spiced in house. Even though it is a pizzeria, Drive Pie also has breakfast offerings in the form of its sausage and egg pocket pie. The pocket pie is a unique item to Drive Pie, comes in many varieties and can be served quickly, making it ideal for the drive-thru.

Mr. Gurhan wants to expand Drive Pie with what he calls "aggressive but strategic" growth plans.

"Before we even opened the doors, we put a lot of time into having a good

brand. The franchisee we're looking for isn't your typical guy with half a million to a million dollars ready to invest in a company," he said.

"We're looking for people who want opportunity. We're even willing to finance some of these locations.

"It's really important that we put the right person in one of those stores."

We think that my mom's recipe does a good job differentiating our food in a pretty saturated market.

Al Gurhan



Al Gurhan serves a slice of pizza out of the drive-thru window at the Drive Pie restaurant on Montreal Road. MARC SHAW/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

TOURISM

Brew Donkey beer bus tour eyes return to saddle

Brew Donkey founder Brad Campeau's first call on April 18 will be to the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.

He'll be asking whether his business, Brew Donkey, can finally operate as intended: selling brewery bus tours on his website — transportation included.

The idea behind Brew Donkey is to support local craft breweries while providing transportation for people jumping from one tasting to another. It's an option that means no one is drinking

and driving.

But more than a year ago, Campeau was told that, since he was selling bus tours, he needed to be registered as a travel agency to comply with the Travel Industry Act. He could face time if he didn't.

Instead, Brew Donkey started operating for free, asking for donations online instead to get around the licensing process. Then, in October, he partnered with a travel agency to offer the transportation separately from his tour tickets.

But Campeau may not have to finagle a solution much longer, as the ministry has proposed draft regulatory amendments to the Travel Industry Act to exempt one-day tours from the travel industry act.

As a one-day tour operator, Brew Donkey's tours couldn't include lodging or be longer than 24 hours, which doesn't bother Campeau.

"That's fine because I don't want to be on a trip with people for 24 hours, especially if they are drinking beer," he said.

Public comments will be accepted on the draft changes until April 18.

"I'm hoping the draft goes well and no one puts up much of a fight and that it can be submitted," Campeau said.

According to ministry spokesperson Sue Carroll, the goal is to have most of the amendments approved and implemented for July 1.

She said the changes are meant to reduce the burden on small operators.

MELISSA MURRAY/METROLAND MEDIA

DISCLOSURE

The act's amendments will provide more flexibility for not-for-profit tourism companies, and will also require travel agencies to display their total prices (including all applicable taxes and fees) when advertising their products or services.

POLITICS

MacLaren should be turfed: Premier

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown should turf controversial MPP Jack MacLaren from his caucus for misogynistic behaviour, says Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne.

"When I talked some months ago about misogyny in our society, the kind of behaviour that this member has demonstrated is exactly what I was talking about," Wynne said Friday.

MacLaren has been under fire since the Star revealed last week that he told a sexist joke about Liberal MP Karen McCrimmon (Kanata-Carleton) in front of 350 people at a March 24 charity event in Carp, Ont.

On Thursday, the Ottawa Citizen posted audio recordings from a previous Carp Fair "men's night" that included the Carleton-Mississippi Mills making crude references to Wynne.

"Do you not think you should support our premier in blowing everybody up through the ass?" MacLaren told his audience, referring to Liberal policies like the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan, estate taxes, and carbon pricing.

"That's how you f— things up — and she's doing a marvelous (job)."

The tapes emerged the same week as the MPP had to apologize for posting fake testimonials from "constituents" — complete with photos lifted from the Internet — on his official website, which has since been taken offline.

Wynne said she does not find MacLaren's antics amusing.

"It's the kind of language and behaviour that fuels misogyny. From my perspective it's unacceptable and if he were a member in my caucus we'd be having a very different conversation about whether he would remain a member of caucus or not," the premier said in Mississauga.

"I said when we heard about the first incident that I hoped there would be a full and personal apology. It's obviously up to Patrick Brown and his team to make this decision. But if I were dealing with this situation, it would be different," she said.

"There would need to be a much more public apology. There would be a much more serious discussion about whether it was appropriate to have someone who behaves in this way as a member of caucus."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said Thursday that the rookie Tory chief needs to act.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'A war on our families'

HEALTH

Mothers heading to UN to fight against war on drugs

Nearly four years after her daughter died of an opioid overdose, Donna May will share her story of loss and learning at the United Nations.

May's daughter Jac, 35, died on Aug. 21, 2012, after overdosing on pain medication prescribed to help her cope with a flesh-eating disease she'd contracted after years of addiction and life on the streets.

"From the time she passed away until (now) all I've done is advocate for drug policy reform and to have other people receive the education I was given so they don't face the situation the same way I did. And that's my daughter's legacy," May said in an interview.

May and three other mothers whose children lost their lives to drugs have been invited by the Canadian government to attend a three-day UN session that be-



There are too many victims to the war on drugs.

Donna May

Donna May holds a photograph of her late daughter Jac in Toronto on April 14, 2016. Jac died in 2012 after overdosing on pain medication. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

gins Tuesday aimed at addressing the world's drug problem. May is slated to speak at a side event on the final day of the conference.

Other groups from around the world are expected to travel to New York to ask that the UN and governments end the war on drugs.

Last year, the women helped

found the group Mothers United and Mandated to Saving the Lives of Drug Users, or mumsDU. It advocates for harm reduction and drug-policy reform, and has expanded to include about 400 parents of children whose deaths are in some way linked to drugs.

Fellow co-founder Jennifer Woodside of Vancouver lost her

21-year-old son Dylan Woodside two years ago after he took oxycodone laced with the powerful painkiller fentanyl. He was one of the earliest to die in a series of fentanyl-linked deaths that is still claiming lives across Canada.

Her goal for the upcoming UN session is to give her son a voice and to make sure he didn't die

in vain, she said.

MumsDU has made inroads in its advocacy, successfully lobbying the government to make the overdose-reversal medication naloxone available without a prescription.

Leslie McBain will travel from her home on Pender Island, B.C., to New York on behalf of the group. She wants to see international drug policy move away from a punitive approach and toward a system that places more emphasis on health and social care.

A successful outcome from the UN meeting would be a declaration that the war on drugs has failed, McBain said.

Her son, Jordan Miller, died of an oxycodone overdose in Victoria in early 2014.

"The war on drugs has been a war on our families," said Lorna Thomas, another mumsDU co-founder from Edmonton.

One consequence of the recent spate of fentanyl-related overdoses is the changing dialogue around addiction and drug abuse, given the sheer number of deaths linked to the illicit substance, said Thomas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROYALS

Canadians divided on monarchy



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Canadians continue to respect Queen Elizabeth II as she prepares to celebrate her 90th birthday on Thursday, but the country is less sold on the idea of keeping the monarchy forever.

While two-thirds of Canadians say the respected Queen should continue to be recognized as head of state, less than half (42 per cent) want the country to maintain its constitutional monarchy for future generations, according to an Angus Reid Institute survey released Monday.

Almost the same number (38 per cent) wants out from under the royals' thumbs entirely while the remaining 20 per cent isn't sure.

Part of the problem is the immediate heir to the throne, Angus Reid executive director Shachi Kurl said. Only 46 per cent support Prince Charles, perhaps due to prolonged fallout from the Princess Diana scandal, compared to second-in-line Prince William, who enjoys 63 per cent support.



IN BRIEF

Fathers may get dedicated time in parental leave rules

The federal government is signalling that when it finally unveils changes to parental leave rules, there will be provisions dedicated exclusively to new fathers.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau mused about the idea last month at the United Nations, it was in the context of more gender equality and increasing opportunities for women in the workforce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Climate change affecting the Prairies



Early growth corn and blooming canola near Roland, Man.
GETTY IMAGES

When Kendall Heise started farming about 20 years ago, he grew cool-season grains like wheat and canola — in the harsh climes of Manitoba, it wasn't like he had much choice.

This spring, he plans to also plant warm-season soybeans and corn.

"We were, and still are, somewhat limited in what we can grow because of the cold climate," says Heise. "But it's changing ... spring comes a little earlier and the fall a bit later and we are taking advantage of it."

Western Canada's cold and

short growing seasons have historically prevented farmers from planting crops like soybeans. But as temperatures have risen and growing seasons have grown longer, the extra days between the last and first frost have given farmers a chance to grow new, potentially more lucrative, crops. In a paper in 2011,

Paul Bullock, a University of Manitoba professor, analyzed rainfall and temperature data from 12 Prairie weather stations and found that warming from the 1920s to 2000 has allowed farmers to plant more crops that

are traditionally grown in the warmer U.S. states.

(For the Prairies, scientists have predicted average high temperatures will increase by 2-3 C and lows will increase by about 3 C by mid century. Precipitation is also expected to increase by three to seven per cent.)

In some regions of western Canada, the length of the frost-free period — from the last day of spring when it freezes to the last day of fall when it doesn't — has increased by almost two weeks, substantial in farming terms.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**1310
NEWS**

Introducing...
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WEEKDAYS 9am - 1pm



These photos show scenes of destruction after a massive earthquake in Pedernales, Ecuador, on Sunday. The strongest earthquake to hit Ecuador in decades flattened buildings and buckled highways along its Pacific coast, sending the Andean nation into a state of emergency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death toll rising in Ecuador

NATURAL DISASTER

Strong quake kills hundreds, injures more than 2,500

Aid began to flow in Sunday to areas devastated by Ecuador's strongest earthquake in decades and the death toll continued to rise as people left homeless huddled down for another night outside in the dark.

Officials said the quake killed at least 246 people and injured more than 2,500 along Ecuador's coast. Vice-President Jorge Glas said the toll was likely to rise because a large number of

people remained unaccounted for, though he declined to say how many.

Much damage was reported in the cities of Manta, Portoviejo and Guayaquil, which are all several hundred kilometres from the epicentre of the quake that struck shortly after nightfall Saturday.

But the loss of life seemed to be far worse in isolated, smaller towns closest to the centre of the earthquake.

In Pedernales, a town of 40,000 near the epicentre, soldiers put up a field hospital in a stadium where hundreds of people prepared to sleep outside for a second straight night. Downed power cables snaked across the streets with no prospect of elec-



Everything can be rebuilt, but what can't be rebuilt are human lives. President Rafael Correa

tricity being restored soon, making it unsafe for many to return to their homes.

The town's mayor said looting broke out Saturday night amid the chaos but with the arrival of 14,000 police and soldiers to towns in the quake zone the situation appeared more under control.

President Rafael Correa, who cut short a trip to Rome to oversee relief efforts, declared a national emergency and urged Ecuadoreans to stay strong.

"Everything can be rebuilt, but what can't be rebuilt are hu-

man lives, and that's the most painful," he said in a telephone call to state TV before departing Rome for Manta.

More than 3,000 packages of food and nearly 8,000 sleeping kits were being delivered Sunday. Ecuador's ally, Venezuela and neighbouring Colombia, where the quake was also felt, organized airlifts of humanitarian aid. The European Union, Spain, Peru and Mexico also pledged aid.

Rescuers scrambled through ruins in the provincial capital Portoviejo, digging with their hands trying to find survivors.

"For god's sake help me find my family," pleaded Manuel Quijije, 27, standing next to a wrecked building. He said his older brother, Junior, was trapped under a pile of twisted steel and concrete with two relatives.

"We managed to see his arms and legs. They're his, they're buried, but the police kicked us out because they say there's a risk the rest of the building will collapse," Quijije said angrily as he looked on the ruins cordoned off by police. "We're not afraid. We're desperate. We want to pull out our family."

Electricity mostly remained out in Manabi province, the hardest-hit region, as authorities focused on finding survivors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ECUADOR

2 Canadians believed to be dead

Federal officials say two Canadians are among at least 246 people killed by a devastating earthquake in Ecuador.

Global Affairs Canada spokeswoman Rachna Mishra confirms two Quebecers were among the victims of the earthquake, centred about 170 kilometres northwest of the capital, Quito.

The agency says consular officials are in contact with the families of the two Canadians, who have not been named.

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake is the strongest to hit Ecuador since 1979, levelling buildings and buckling highways along the Pacific Coast of the South American country.

President Rafael Correa has declared a national emergency and some 10,000 armed forces have been deployed to the earthquake region in addition to 4,600 national police.

Global Affairs has asked friends and relatives of those known to be travelling in Ecuador to contact their emergency response centre.

"I am saddened to learn of the tragic loss of life stemming from Saturday's devastating earthquake near the central coast of Ecuador which has already cost the lives of at least 233, including two Canadians," Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion said in a release Sunday.

"Canadian officials at our embassy in Quito are reaching out to Canadian citizens in-country and providing assistance to Canadians affected by the earthquake. We will continue to work with local authorities to assess impact and needs on the ground."

Reports out of Ecuador said rescuers are struggling to reach survivors trapped in the ruins of fallen buildings.

The quake was felt in neighbouring Colombia and more than 135 aftershocks followed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SYRIA

Shelling kills 10 children in Aleppo

Ten children have been killed by rebel shelling on Syria's largest city this weekend, as the UN warned of "desperate" conditions inside a war-ravaged Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus that is home to about 10,000 civilians. The violence underscores the fragility of the ceasefire in Syria, which has unraveled in the north despite ongoing peace negotiations.

Rebel shelling killed sixteen people in Aleppo — including six adults, and three young siblings — a monitoring group said Sunday. The Britain-based Syrian

Observatory for Human Rights said that airstrikes killed another six people in the opposition-held parts of the city's old quarters.

Syria's state news agency, SANA, said at least five of the sixteen dead in the government-held areas were killed by rebel snipers and said a further ten were injured.

Syria's warring factions have returned to violence in recent weeks, spoiling a period of relative calm brought about by a partial ceasefire that went into effect in late February.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This picture taken on Jan. 31, 2014 shows residents of the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk queuing to receive food supplies, in Damascus, Syria. UNRWA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.K. firm Novitas provides loans for divorces at a high 18 per cent interest rate. Now the company is aiming to set up the first Canadian operation of its kind. iSTOCK

Getting a loan to untie the knot

LEGAL

Company lends money to pay for your divorce

When Theresa Emerson left her 29-year marriage, she was a multimillionaire who became penniless and homeless overnight.

As the cash-poor-but-asset-rich dependent spouse, she felt helpless until she found the "fairy godmother of divorce." That was

Nicole Noonan, CEO of divorce financing firm Novitas US. She stepped in with a \$150,000 US loan to cover Emerson's fight for her share of an estate she estimates is worth \$4 million US.

The 18 per cent interest rate attached to the loan is high, but the firm is also taking on a great risk — if she doesn't win, it receives nothing.

Now, Noonan wants to bring Novitas' services to Canada and plans to set up a Toronto operation in the summer or fall.

"Our next push is certainly Canada because, like the U.S., there's a lot of divorces," Noonan



There are other ways of leveling the playing field without borrowing money at 16 or 18 per cent.

Philip Epstein

said.

The move would make it the first lender of its kind in this country, family law experts believe. But they're torn over whether the business is a novel solution that helps economically disadvantaged spouses or a new form of predatory lending.

Novitas is making extremely risky loans, which is why it charges so much interest and rejects

nine in 10 applicants.

Loans that cover the high cost of divorce in Canada could be one part of a solution to a family law system that has become overly complex, expensive and time-consuming, said Trevor Farrow, associate dean at Osgoode Hall Law School.

"The upside of these kind of third party arrangements is they provide access to justice oppor-

tunities for people who otherwise couldn't afford them," he said.

"The downside with these sorts of things is it turns people's tragedies and people's disputes — particularly when they're at their most vulnerable — into business opportunities."

The expense of hiring a lawyer has led to an increasing number of spouses choosing to represent themselves. But there's still the problem of economic disparity between a moneyed and dependent spouse.

In Canada, the U.K. and the U.S., divorce lawyers are not allowed to represent clients in

exchange for a share of the settlement, as they do for class action or personal injury cases. But there's nothing stopping a third party funder from stepping in.

Family lawyer Philip Epstein is skeptical about the need for this kind of service. High net worth clients are usually able to secure a line of credit, he said.

However, in Canada, the average divorce costs less than \$15,000. And most of the time, people aren't fighting about assets, they're fighting about children, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ECONOMY

Guaranteed income eyed again

In the mid- to late-1970s, every single person in one rural Manitoba city received \$1,255 a year — roughly \$7,500 in today's dollars.

The amount increased depending on the number of people living in each household, maxing out at \$3,969, or nearly \$23,500 in 2016 currency, for a family of five or more.

The people in the Dauphin, Man., experiment didn't have to work to receive this stipend. If they did, their benefit dropped 50 cents for every dollar they received.

The residents of Dauphin

just had to exist to receive their full guaranteed annual income.

About four decades later, policy-makers and the public in Canada and around the world are eyeing the basic guaranteed income scheme again, buoyed by an evolving labour landscape and technological advances that have left them wondering if today's social services are enough.

Finland plans to launch a basic income pilot next year. The Swiss will soon vote on unconditional basic income in a referendum.

Closer to home, the Ontario government's latest budget promises to run a pilot in the future and multiple politicians across Canada have expressed interest in studying the idea.

"I think people are simply looking at the state of the economy and they're starting to focus on changes that have been taking place for a very long time," said Evelyn Forget, a professor at the University of Manitoba, who studied the so-called mincome experiment in Dauphin and continues to research data from the pilot.

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VIEWS

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Monday, April 18, 2016



URBAN ETIQUETTE **ELLEN VANSTONE**



Dear Ellen,
My friend is getting married. Her mother insists that invites to single people have a "plus one" but my friend says this is an outdated idea and doesn't want to. Who's right?

X.B.

Dear X.B.,

Traditionalists will automatically employ the plus-one approach, but it's entirely acceptable nowadays to include the spouse, fiancé(e) or live-in partner of mated guests and let the singletons happily fend for themselves.

But, given that we're talking wedding etiquette here, be assured that, no matter what you do, someone will be offended. That I so much as asked my friends what they thought about the plus-one invite was insulting to some of them.

One felt that traditionalists who insist on a plus-one are judgmentally saying, "God forbid you should show up uncoupled to a sacred ritual honouring a yoked existence unto death!" Another pointed out that a major demographic shift in Canada and the U.S. has resulted in married couples no longer being in the majority. Ergo, senders of presumptuous plus-one invites could "shove it."

But a lot of people, like Sara, appreciate the gesture: "I love a plus-one, especially for a destination wedding."

Given that we're talking wedding etiquette here, be assured that, no matter what you do, someone will be offended

THE QUESTION **Do wedding invitations sent to single people really need to include a 'plus-one'? Is it wrong if hosts try to control costs by limiting plus-ones to invitees in relationships?**



© Ani Castillo

It doesn't mean I have to bring one but I like the option." Similarly, Maria said, "This type of invitation doesn't make any assumptions about your status or preferences. It's a guest, folks, and it's your choice to bring, or not bring, anyone you want."

Twenty-something Genna muses that "older people are always whining about how millennials are irresponsible and bad with money. But when we invent something like this, which saves money, they wail and whine that we have no respect for tradition." I'm not sure saving money in itself is a sufficient reason to break with tradition, but I applaud her thoughtful suggestion that hosts "just ask guests if they would like a plus-one" — though it might be infeasible if your guest list is in the triple digits.

Whichever way you go,

there's bound to be complications. Keri had a bad breakup four days before a wedding. "I would have preferred to miss the event altogether but didn't want to disappoint my friend so told her I wouldn't be using the plus-one (and the reason why), with apologies. She demanded that I find someone to fill the seat so the +1 wouldn't go to 'waste.' I have no idea of the etiquette of that, but it seems to me that forced plus-ones are maybe as bad as no plus-ones at all?"

Another excruciating example comes from Nora: "My first marriage, ahem, split up a couple of days before a good friend's wedding. Because of the empty seat beside me, I was forced to lie over and over and over again all night about where my husband was because the seat hadn't been removed (even though the bride and groom knew

— though, frankly, they had better things to worry about). So here's a point of etiquette for hosts: If a plus-one bails, then remove the flippin' place setting."

One person argued that she didn't want plus-ones at her wedding because she didn't want people there that she didn't know or didn't like. This kind of faulty reasoning I cannot condone, unless you are also willing to exclude partners of friends and family whom you barely know or find boring, boorish or otherwise obnoxious.

I'll give the last word to Aaron, who thinks guests should go along with whatever their hosts want to do on their big day, and adds, sensibly: "People need to be less offended by everything."

**Need advice?
Email Ellen:**
askellen@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

What women achieve when they can be more than just wives

Back in the ancient days of the 2015 federal election, I met a young Conservative operative for coffee.

I wanted to know: How did Stephen Harper speak to her, as a woman? And what did she make of feminism? She was nonplussed. We live in an equal society, she told me.

Oh, how I wish I could have handed her Rebecca Traister's new book *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*.

It is the definitive historical and modern account of unmarried women in the U.S. Even as a Canadian, reading it felt like hearing my own story told, in satisfying complexity, for the first time. In the extensive research and interviews with dozens of women, I found my own perpetual conundrum exposed: How can I best fight for all women's rights, in a world that already assumes equality? And more personally perplexing: How can I separate my own desires from society's insidious expectations? Traister said, I can't.

"When it comes, for example, to the distribution of domestic responsibility, one of the things you hear so often is, 'I'm just better at doing dishes; he leaves crap on the dishes,'" she told me during a trip to Toronto. "If we were at a place where we actually had gender equality, you could say that and it would be plausible. But because there are so many

structural inequalities remaining, it makes it hard to untangle what is about individual preference."

Such depressing realities notwithstanding, the book is also a celebration of what women accomplish when they can be more than just wives. Did you know, for example, that single women were instrumental in the labour and abolition movements? Or that "it's single women who have perhaps played as large a part as anyone is saving marriage in America" by refusing to submit to its restrictions?

One of the most surprising aspects of the book is the way it shows that women still feel alone, freakish and conspicuous, at the exact moment when singleness has statistically outpaced marriage. And how that threat of female power has become politically dangerous because of the backlash it has inspired, including during this presidential election.

"It's very scary," Traister said. "I feel the election is going to come down to being a referendum to how we feel about the advancements of people of colour and of women." Some old-stock Americans, who have seen their privilege wane, are angry, she says, and could decide to take it out on those vulnerable groups.

In that sense, a book about women has a lot to say on why this U.S. election seems crazier than most.

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Text-sized wisdom for grads

NEW RELEASE

Mom's advice book balances snark and seriousness

Becky Blades wrote her oldest daughter a letter after she left home for college offering all the advice and words of wisdom she wished she had dispensed beforehand.

Her daughter had some advice of her own: Turn the letter into a book. Blades, who lives in Kansas City, Mo., did just that and the result is a nifty, gift-like little book titled, *Do Your Laundry or You'll Die Alone*, out in April from Sourcebooks.

Blades knows her audience, keeping her pearls mostly text length — and funny.

"They're in this short attention span stage of life," she said in a recent interview. "Our best communications happen in text. It's kind of that irritating motherly voice that we know and love, but at that stage in life they really don't like to hear it."

So how did it come to pass that kids leave home these days without the most basic survival skills: laundry, mending or the sense to know that good posture is slimming?

Yes, Millennial and Gen Z Virginia, SPEAK CLEARLY. Enunciate. Articulate. Spit out your gum.

"And we blame ourselves, or I did. I think it has to do with time and how much they have to do. The other piece is the things that they have to do to fill their



As a mother of two teens, Becky Blades wondered how it came to pass that kids leave home without the most basic survival skills. So she wrote a book they can take with them to school. ISTOCK

time. When we were free-range humans, we went looking for things to do and family was kind of that place, and things were just kind of absorbed. Your mom said, 'Here, do the laundry, here's how.' My oldest was very ambitious and very driven and I gave her a laundry pass. She could hardly get her studies done. We held too much."

Now, her youngest is a college sophomore and her older, driven one just graduated from Harvard.

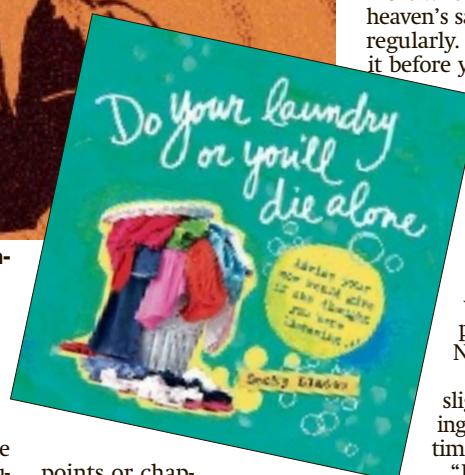
And mom just got around to writing the book.

Blades numbers her bits of advice and inspiration, with 271 in all. She includes seven ruled blank pages at the end for moms and dads to write in their own pearls before handing the book over to their kids.

It was her oldest daughter's first day of senior year in high school when Blades realized exactly how much she had let slide. "There was a whole litany

of things. I thought 'Have I ever had the birth control conversation, have I ever talked to her about this or this? What does the time get filled with?' It either gets filled with all the social media and things like YouTube. We don't sit around and tell grandma stories and pass down generational tidbits. We sit down and look at YouTube or say look at this or this on the computer," Blades said.

Rather than data-driven bullet



points or chapters of soliloquy like so many parenting books are crammed with, Blades offers humour and snark to connect. Consider her No. 8:

"Friends don't let friends: drive drunk, text while driving, get

discount body art."

She wanted to cut to the chase and eliminate much of the noise in talking to teens. How much do they actually hear, anyway?

No. 202 is a good example: "Reinvent yourself as often as you want. Just keep the essence that makes you you."

And this less funny but truly important tip in No. 233: "Check your paycheque. Make sure you know how much you are being paid and what is being taken out."

Blades leaves no topic uncovered: Buy a sewing kit and learn to use it. Cotton always shrinks so buy big. Wool shrinks when you get it wet, and shrinks some more when you dry it. And, for heaven's sake, do your laundry regularly. Try every week. Do it before you run out of clean underwear. She takes on sex, bullying, common courtesy, etiquette and basic interpersonal skills such as: "Look people in the eye. You'll discover this is hard to do while looking at your phone" and, "Listen. No, but really listen."

So are her girls, slightly older now, doing just that? Most of the time, Blades said.

"I was talking a lot about the book before it was done, so they're really sick of hearing about it," she said. "Their dad will always say, 'Hey guys, that's in the book. For cryin' out loud, it's in the book.'"

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**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M
WATCHING**

A classic, satisfying TV-movie ending



Kerry Washington as Anita Hill. HBO

THE SHOW: Confirmation (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The letters

Law professor Anita Hill (Kerry Washington) has been through hell.

She didn't want to testify that U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas (Wendell Pierce) sexually harassed her when she worked for him. As she says, "When someone comes forward, the victim becomes the villain."

But she made her case on live TV, and it divided the nation. Now he's been approved by the U.S. Senate, 52 to 48, and she's returning to her university office.

She pauses in the doorway. Stacks of mail bins stuffed with letters rest on every surface. Opening one at random, she reads aloud: "Dear Professor Hill, for 25 years my boss has treated me like his personal property...Watching you this week felt like I was watching someone stand up for me." For the first time in her ordeal,

Hill cries.

This is the classic historical telefilm ending: the triumphant loss. Our heroine didn't win her war, but her courage shone a light on an important issue and opened the door for new battles.

As an end-crawl tells us, in the wake of Hill's hearing, the number of sexual harassment cases filed with the Equal Opportunity Commission doubled, 42 per cent of women federal workers reported they'd been sexually harassed recently, and the next congressional election saw the largest number of women win in U.S. history.

The triumphant loss allows filmmakers to have it both ways: They stir our moral outrage while fanning our hope—and remind us that, 20 years later, harassment victims are still fighting the same battle.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

INTERVIEW

'The Body' paved the way for social media stars

Shinan Govani
For Torstar News Service

The woman born Eleanor Nancy Gow, down under, swoops into the Fairmont Royal York, her mouth a half-moon grin. Her beauty, amped up to an 11, is as taunting as the chocolate on a pillow they leave you at the poshest of hotels.

"She's 52?" is the general chant in the ballroom, where the guests milling on Friday night include Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, Galen Weston Jr. and Kim Cattrall.

Known for years as Elle Macpherson, having amassed a career in which she managed the tightrope between swimsuit model and capital-F Fashion model, and then became a second-act self-mogul, she'd arrived in Toronto to receive the Vanguard Award at the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards. Worth around \$45 million, and with the flush that comes with a newly acquired mogul-husband, she was the portrait of easy boho-chick.

The insouciance belies an iron will, as was made all too clear when I met her for a chat earlier that day.

"The strongest drink I take is ginger ale," she demurred, going on to describe her no-alcohol, no-red-meat, little-coffee, all-alkaline diet (one, no doubt, harnessed by her own wellness



Supermodel Elle Macpherson at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, where she accepted the Vanguard Award at the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards. GEORGE PIMENTEL

brand, WelleCo, which boasts a green powder elixir, among other miracles). Regrets? She's had a few. "I wish I'd worn sunblock," she shrugged, adding, "I grew up in the '70s in Australia."

Macpherson was a harbinger of all the Kendalls and Giggis who fill the modelling sphere now, a world of FaceTime, of near-constant streaming, of a fashion scene that hinges on hashtags.

In 1994, she left Ford Models to form her own company, Elle Macpherson Inc., knocking out the middleman, later creating her own calendar after years on the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue (she appeared on the cover a record five times).

Before that, she'd founded her intimates line, leveraging the nickname "The Body" handed to her in a famous Time story.

This was well before "branding" was a concept that 10-year-olds learn in the playground.

Leveraging her fame, including a drive on the model-to-actor expressway, her stint in acting was abbreviated at best, but it did last long enough for her to snag a Sir (Anthony Hopkins in *The Edge*), bewitch Joey Tribbiani (recurring on *Friends*), and live down the indignities of George Clooney's most notorious pivot (ah, yes, Batman and Robin).

In her personal life, after a starter-marriage with French photographer Gilles Bensimon, and then a long union with French financier Arpad Busson (with whom she had two sons, now 17 and 13), she finally made it official again with billionaire realtor Jeffrey Soffer. Being a good wife, and ever the mar-

keting wiz, she oohs about the famous Fontainebleau hotel, in Miami Beach, which her husband happens to own.

Have family. Will blend. She tells me that Canada looms now in their clan because her stepson plays hockey, and she's trotted up here for tournaments.

Blessed in both work and love, and in possession of the Fountain of Youth, is there anything that "The Body" can't do? Turns out she's a dunce at selfies. When asked for one by an admirer while in Toronto, I saw her wrestle for many minutes with the phone. She tried sitting. She stood. She tilted this way and that way. Exasperated, she muttered, "I'm no good at selfies."

Let's leave the mugging to the newer girls, shall we?

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Dare to dream of being debt free



It's tough staying motivated when you're living on a budget and you feel like it'll never end.

So, you know how people go out and buy a lottery ticket so they can dream big for a week?

Here's something you can do that will not only put some dreaming back into your life, but help keep you moving towards becoming debt-free forever.

Imagine you have finally paid off your last debt.

That likely means you have all that money you've been snowballing for debt repayment that can now be in-

corporated back into your budget.

It's almost like getting a raise, right? So what would you do with that money? How much would you save? What goals would you start working towards?

Recalculate your budget assuming your debt is gone and all that debt repayment money is yours for the keeping.

This is a great exercise for three reasons:

1. You will remind yourself of just how dumb debt is.

2. You will enjoy the anticipation of being debt free and that'll help keep you on track.

3. You can start planning what you'll do with the money once you do get to debt-free forever.

This third point is just as important as the first two. Sometimes, having finally achieved debt freedom, folks become intoxicated with all the extra money they have.

They start thinking of themselves as "rich" and stop paying attention to the details.

The flip side of this is the unwillingness to spend that sometimes comes after years of living frugally.

Having scared yourself to death and promised to always be vigilant about not "wasting" money, you could find it extremely difficult to go out and spend.

Both these reactions are just that: reactions. They are emotional. They aren't based in logic or sound money management.

And one of the best ways to overcome them is to start looking at how life will be different down the road so you can get used to the idea of finally being debt-free.

No one says the first budget you make has to be the budget you end up living with.

This is your opportunity to practise, at least on paper, how you'll deal with the extra money you have in your cash flow once the final payment on your debt is made.

Take your new budget and post it up on your bulletin board or on your refrigerator. Look at it.

Enjoy it.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com



Allow yourself to imagine what life will be like when you rid yourself of debt. ISTOCK



Metro SPORTS

Warriors superstar Stephen Curry is questionable for Game 2 against Houston as he nurses an ankle injury

Blues in the face

NHL PLAYOFFS

Schwartz goal propels St. Louis back into series lead

Jaden Schwartz scored at 13:32 of the third period with Patrick Kane in the penalty box for high-sticking, and the St. Louis Blues beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on Sunday for a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

GAME 3 In Chicago



Patrik Berglund also scored in the third as St. Louis rallied for the win after a difficult 3-2 loss in Game 2 that included two key coach's challenges that went against the Blues. Brian Elliott made 44 saves.

Kane, the NHL's leading scorer this season and one of the favourites for league MVP, got four minutes for a high stick on defenceman Alex Pietrangelo, and St. Louis made the most of the chance to go in front.

Vladimir Tarasenko passed down low to David Backes, who sent it right to Schwartz, who beat Corey Crawford in the slot. He beat Corey Crawford



The Blues' Jaden Schwartz collides with Blackhawks goaltender Corey Crawford on Sunday in Chicago. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

low on the glove side for his third career playoff goal and a 3-2 lead with 6:38 left.

The Blackhawks pulled Crawford for an extra attacker with 1:10 remaining, but Elliott and the Blues held on. Game 4 is Tuesday night in Chicago.

Brent Seabrook and Artem Anisimov scored for the Black-

hawks, who dropped to 28-7 in home playoff games since the 2013 post-season. It was their first home playoff game since they hoisted the Stanley Cup at the United Center last June.

Crawford finished with 33 saves.

With action fast and furious through the first two games, the

pace of play only picked up after the teams exchanged power-play goals in the first, with Brent Seabrook scoring for Chicago and Colton Parayko responding for St. Louis. The Blackhawks outshot the Blues 24-13 in the second when Anisimov's fluttering shot got past Elliott at 1:04.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

Irving, Cavs hold off pesky Pistons

Kyrie Irving scored 31 points in his first playoff game since being injured in last year's NBA Finals and Kevin Love added 28, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 106-101 win over the young and confident Detroit Pistons in the opener of their first-round playoff series Sunday.

LeBron James added 22 points and 11 assists for the top-seeded Cavs, who are favoured to win the Eastern Conference again but got all they could handle from the Pistons.

Love, knocked out of the playoffs with a shoulder injury in the first round a year ago,

GAME 1 In Cleveland

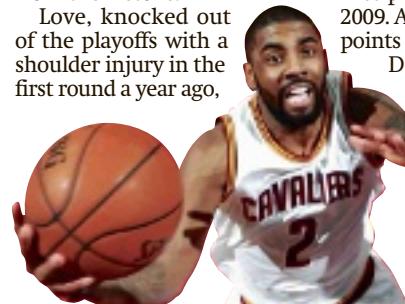
106 **101**
CAVALIERS PISTONS

made two critical three-pointers in the fourth.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 21 and Marcus Morris 20 — but just one after halftime — for the Pistons, making their first playoff appearance since 2009. Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Detroit made 15 three-pointers, but the Pistons' playoff inexperience showed in the final minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kyrie Irving
GETTY IMAGES

MLB IN BRIEF

Sanchez's goes 7 innings to boost Jays past Red Sox

Aaron Sanchez allowed two hits in seven innings of one-run ball, and Jose Bautista drove in two runs with a solo homer and a double to lead the Toronto Blue Jays over the Boston Red Sox 5-3 Sunday.

Edwin Encarnacion added two singles and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who had lost two straight and were 1-4 against the Red Sox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees snap 4-game skid

Alex Rodriguez, dropped three spots to sixth in the batting order, hit a two-run homer that snapped his hitless skid and sent the New York Yankees past the Seattle Mariners 4-3 on Sunday, ending their four-game losing streak.

Masahiro Tanaka topped old pal Hisashi Iwakuma in the first major-league pitching matchup of former Japanese teammates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DeMar DeRozan, left, and Kyle Lowry combined to shoot 8-for-32 from the field in Game 1. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

DeRozan: 'Natural instinct' to bounce back

DeMar DeRozan believes athletes sometimes compete at their best when the situation is most dire.

That's part of the reason why the Raptors all-star believes Toronto will bounce Monday after a thorough Game 1 thumping by the Indiana Pacers.

"You're fighting for your life," DeRozan said Sunday. "If you were drowning in water, you're going to figure out something to hold onto, to float, right? You have that natural instinct when you're a competitor and that's the beauty of the game. When things get rough, you kind of

RAPTORS INDY LEADS SERIES 1-0

find enjoyment in it, and trying to overcome it.

"That's the great thing about basketball."

If that's in fact true, there will be plenty to enjoy on Monday, when the Raptors try to even up their opening-round series against Indiana. The Raptors came in as the undisputed favourites, after winning 56 games this season, and earning the No. 2 seed in the East. But DeRozan and fellow all-star

Kyle Lowry, both leaders in Toronto's record-breaking season, all but disappeared.

DeRozan and Lowry said they

both watched the game in its entirety twice on video. The errors were glaring. The team's 20 turnovers and 38 per cent shooting were the two huge differences in the game.

Coach Dwane Casey said cleaning up the turnovers — that the Pacers parlayed into

25 points Saturday — will be at the top of the team's to-do list in Game 2.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Casey said. "We took our Smith & Wesson and pulled the trigger a few times. You can't do that in a playoff situation and expect to win."

Following Monday, the series moves to Indianapolis for Game 3 on Thursday and Game 4 on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

“

My confidence is unshaken. Do I look shaky?

Kyle Lowry

Barça crashing back to Earth

LA LIGA

Catalans fall again days after Champions League ouster

Barcelona fell to Valencia 2-1 at the Camp Nou on Sunday, losing its third straight game to allow Atletico Madrid to draw level on points atop the Spanish league with five rounds to go.

Atletico erased Barcelona's lead by beating Granada 3-0 earlier Sunday. Real Madrid is only one point behind after winning 5-1 at last-place Getafe on Saturday.

Atletico was trailing by nine points three rounds ago and Real Madrid was 12 points back four games ago.

At the time, Barcelona was cruising toward a repeat of the Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey treble. But Luis Enrique's squad has

won only one of its last six, was eliminated by Atletico in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday and has seen its league lead disappear. Its 39-game unbeaten streak ended with a home loss to Real Madrid earlier this month.

Atletico has three of its last five games at home, while Barcelona will play away three times. Real Madrid also is away in three of its last five matches.

Valencia opened the scoring after Barcelona midfielder

Ivan Rakitic deflected a cross into his own net in the 26th minute. Midfielder Dani Parejo then provided a perfect pass for Santi Mina's precise shot into the far corner in first-half injury time.

Lionel Messi scored his 500th career goal in the 63rd to end a five-game scoring slump that was his worst in five years. He completed a cross by Jordi Alba to keep his team's hopes alive, but it was not able to capitalize on its chances of equalizing.

Valencia had several opportunities to put the game away in counterattacks, but the best scoring chance of the match was squandered by Barça defender Gerard Pique in the 89th. He had only the goalkeeper to beat but missed from close range.

Valencia keeper Diego Alves made a few great saves to help secure the win, including a spectacular one after a Rakitic shot in the 75th.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Brazil's Neymar during Sunday's match in Barcelona.
LLUIS GENE/AFP/GTET IMAGES

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RECIPE Niçoise Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VINSKY

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This recipe is the cozy, pasta version of my all-time favourite salads. And I bet you have most of the ingredients in your pantry right now.

Ready in

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 500 grams spaghetti
- 3 Tbps olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 cup black olives, pitted and roughly chopped
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup capers
- 2 x 5 oz tin of tuna, drained
- 3 or 4 leaves of fresh basil, torn into pieces
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated

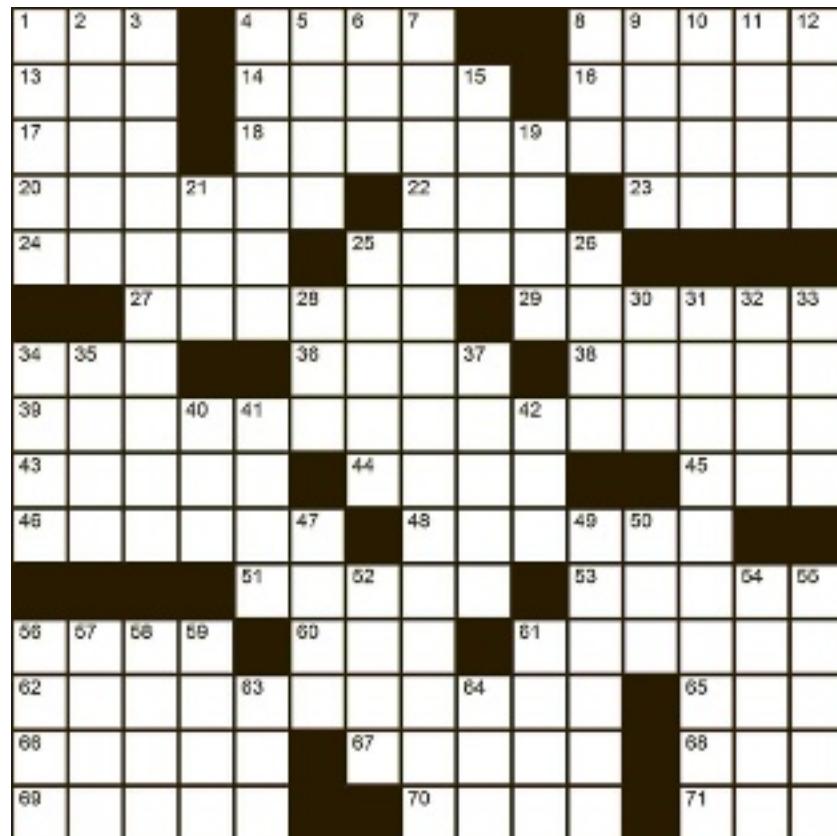
Directions

1. Put a bit pot of well-salted water on to boil. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Just before you drain, remove 1 cup of cooking liquid and set aside.
2. In another large pot, warm up olive oil over medium heat. Toss in garlic, tomatoes, olives and capers. Stir and let the garlic cook for a couple of minutes. Add the tuna and break it up a bit, not too much.
3. Add the cooked pasta and toss together until the pasta is well-coated and the rest of the ingredients are spread throughout. Pour in your cooking liquid bit by bit until the pasta loosens up.
4. Serve with a topping of grated Parmesan and fresh basil.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

1. TV part [abbr.]
4. Money
8. Happen
13. However
14. Run _ of (Conflict)
16. _ wheat bread
17. Vodka, e.g.
18. Lotto Max's extra prizes when the jackpot reaches \$50,000,000
20. More mawkish
22. Quebec 'friend'
23. Thundering sound
24. Without a __ stand on
25. Pray at the pew
27. Guarantee
29. More fictitious
34. TV personality Ms. Vieira, to pals
36. Diana __ & The Supremes
38. Bishop's hat
39. Barrens Willow of Newfoundland, as an example of one unique to Canada: 2 wds.
43. Brandon __ Hilary Swank Oscar-winning role
44. Prefix to 'bat' (Circus performer)
45. Froms opposites
46. Author Mr. Hemingway
48. Discount
51. Blender setting
53. __ Feel the Noize": 1983 hit for Quiet Riot
56. "Scram!"
60. Cave's ceiling clinger
61. 70s songstress Ms. Carpenter's
62. 'Natural Region' of the Tuktut Nogait National Park in the Northwest Territories: 2 wds.
65. Napoleonic Wars marshal
66. Bandleader/clarinetist Mr. Shaw
67. "Can't you __?"

DOWN

1. Lesley of "60 Minutes"
2. Ms. Sevigny
3. Landscaper's creation: 2 wds.
4. Engraved-head necklace pieces
5. Way off
6. Chicago White __
7. CFHS = Canadian Federation of __ (Host of the National Animal Welfare Conference, in Toronto from April 16th to 19th, 2016)
8. Hedwig, for one
9. Fashionable
10. Hip
11. Forearm bone

12. Reply to, briefly
15. Green hue
19. Poet's 'willingly'
21. TGIF part
25. Iceland monetary unit
26. Desk light
28. 'Text' suffix
30. Small, small-ly
31. Financial mailings
32. Mr. Rubik (Rubik's Cube inventor)
33. Soaks flax
34. Bitty bug
35. Vitality [abbr.]
37. __ protector (Electronics store purchase)
40. Suffix with 'Hero'
41. Heave
42. Ben, to Brian Mulroney
47. Band's big brass
49. Irish playwright Sean (b.1880 - d.1964)
50. Karel Capek sci-fi play
52. Hurrys!
54. To __ Paradise (Edgar Allan Poe poem)
55. "Tearin' Up My Heart" quintet
56. Wild guess
57. Lose yer lunch
58. Catch __ ('Get')
59. Aesir ruler
61. J-O link
63. Canadian flag colour
64. British singer Mr. Sayer

*** IT'S ALL IN THE STARS** Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Take a look in the mirror today. What can you do to improve yourself? Ponder this today, but wait until tomorrow to act.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A secret love affair with someone older might take place today. Others might make private plans with someone who is more experienced or in a position of authority.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't hesitate to ask someone older or more experienced for his or her advice today, because you will benefit. The tricky thing is that tomorrow is a better day to apply whatever you learn.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Discussions with authority figures will be friendly and helpful today. However, do not volunteer for anything today — wait until tomorrow.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you will appreciate the creative efforts of others, especially people from other countries or different cultures. Do not buy anything today except for gas and food.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A romantic relationship with someone older might begin today. If you have discussions about shared property and inheritances, wait until tomorrow to make important decisions.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day to discuss problems with a friend or a partner, because your sense of reality is strong. However, to be wise, wait until tomorrow to agree to anything important.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want to protect what you have at work today; however, it's imperative to know this is a poor day for important decisions. Just get your facts.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Relations with children will be serious today. Even romantic relationships will involve discussions about responsibilities and shared expenses. Wait until tomorrow to know what you really want to do.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a good day to get your facts in order so that you can secure your family in a better way for the future. Someone older might have advice for you. Make your decision tomorrow.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It will be easy to attend to routine tasks that require attention to detail, because your mind is focused today. However, if you are signing important documents, wait until tomorrow.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your approach to finances will be conservative today. Do not buy anything today except for gas and food.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7	5	
9	4	6	5 1
1			3
8		3	4
4			6
9		7	2
5			9
6	9	8	4 7
	3	1	

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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

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